

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 19647 021309Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1542

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 19647

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: CRAXI VISIT TO ROMANIA

1. SECRETARY OF ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY, BETTINO CRAXI, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS TRIP TO ROMANIA. HE SAID THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ELECTION LAST JULY TO SECRETARYSHIP OF PSI HE HAD RECEIVED INVITATION FROM CEAUSESCU, ADDING THAT ROMANIANS HAVE SINCE BEEN INSISTENT THAT HE SCHEDULE THE VISIT. CRAXI IS AS CURIOUS AS WE ARE ABOUT THE REASON FOR THEIR INSISTENCE, SINCE CRAXI IS KNOWN IN THE EAST AS AN ANTI-COMMUNIST. HE PLANS TO PROBE THEM ABOUT ATTITUDES TOWARD ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST, COMMERCIAL AND OTHER RELATIONS WITH WEST, THE RECENT BREZHNEV VISIT, AND EUROCOMMUNISM.

2. CRAXI WOULD APPRECIATE CURRENT US READING OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES OF CEAUSESCU GOVERNMENT, AND DIRECTIONS OF ANY CHANGES THAT MAY BE IN PROGRESS. WE BELIEVE THAT CRAXI WILLING TO PUT ANY QUESTIONS THAT WE MIGHT THINK USEFUL. HE WILL GIVE US READOUT ON HIS RETURN TO ROME. CRAXI LEAVES ROME FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 1100 AM LOCAL. THEREFORE, TO BE USEFUL, WE NEED RESPONSE TO ABOVE REQUESTS BY OPENING BUSINESS TOMORROW, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3. WE REGRET SHORTNESS OF TIME, BUT CRAXI HAS JUST RETURNED FROM SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN GENEVA. WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT WILL

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PAGE 02 ROME 19647 021309Z

PROVIDE SOME RESPONSE THAT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO CRAXI FOR,

EVEN IF THIS EXERCISE DOES NOT ULTIMATELY ADVANCE OUR KNOW-
LEDGE OF ROMANIA, IT WILL BE VERY USEFUL IN ADVANCING OUR
RELATIONS WITH CRAXI AND THE PSI. VOLPE

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